

CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

Jude

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- When have you encountered someone who claimed to be a Christian following Jesus Christ, but whose beliefs or teachings were different from what you believe the Bible teaches about Jesus and how we should live our faith? What was your relationship to that person? How did you feel in that situation? How did you respond? Or, did you even respond at all?
- What does “contend for the faith” mean to you? What do you think it looks like for a believer to contend for the faith?

Have you ever planned to catch up with an old friend only to have the entire conversation sidetracked because of some unsettling news? That’s what happens in the letter of *Jude*. Jude receives some news that changes the direction of his writing and leads him to write a letter of urgent encouragement and warning. Through this letter, we glean encouragement to stand firm in our faith and guidance for what actions we should take when the truth of the gospel is threatened by compromised or even false teaching.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Have you ever been tempted to go ahead and commit a sin because you know God forgives? What did you decide to do? How did it affect your faith or your witness?
- Where have you identified false or compromised teachings about Jesus Christ, or about how believers should live, in your own community? How about in our culture at large? How do you protect your faith from that kind of influence?
- Is it possible to avoid heresy without being legalistic? Where do you see there is room for flexibility and where do you not see room for flexibility? How do you find the balance?
- What does it mean to you that God takes delight in you? What does it mean to you that Jesus will be filled with joy when he presents you without fault to the heavenly Father?

Related Passages

- **Romans 6**
- **Jeremiah 23:16-17**
- **2 Peter 3**
- **Zephaniah 3:16-17**

Conclusion

Read and pray over Jude verses 20-23.

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Seek the one who can keep you from stumbling. Pray for ears to hear and a heart in tune with the Holy Spirit. Ask God to protect your faith, and to give you wisdom to know how and when he's calling you to contend for the faith with urgency and mercy.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/contend-for-the-faith>

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